

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 29, 1968

Mr. Arthur J. Obermeyer  
5254 Fairview Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

Dear Mr. Obermeyer:

Thank you, very much, for sending me the booklet and photocopy of the clipping of the Crown collection of the Board of Education. I remember seeing it many times. It is nice that you revived it again.

Your investigation of numismatic matters will give you a great deal of satisfaction and I know COIN WORLD will appreciate your contributions of interesting facts.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

Nov. 28, 1970

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Hans Schulman asked me to answer your letter of Nov. 10th since I did most of the research and writing for the IBS Bulletin article on "American Colonial and Revolutionary War Banknotes."

The quote from Franklin (Beginning with "The Currency as we manage it") came from a very basic source "The Growth of the American Republic" by Samuel Eliot Morison and Henry Steele Commager, Vol. 1. Actually, I did the basic research on this article some time ago, and I also used a history of U. S. economics. I can send you the title of this volume when I get a chance to look further.

The design on the reverse is quite obviously a tobacco leaf...I am still in the process of researching a long article on the role that tobacco played in early U. S. currency. As you know, of course, tobacco itself was widely used during the Colonial period as a currency. I felt an article of this type would be ideal for a tobacco company publication, but I've checked and none of the major tobacco makers in this country has any type of publication that is distributed to the public.

Sincerely,  
*E. Obojski*  
Robert Obojski

Taken from letter to Samuel Cooper, Nov. 17, 1774  
Pamphlet, Nov. 1774, relating to the currency

"This Currency, as we manage it, is a wonderful  
thing. It performs the Office which in ancient  
times was done by money, and provides for the  
circulation of gold and silver in our colonies, and  
is a great advantage to the Colonies."

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 7, 1970

Mr. Robert Obojski  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Obojski:

I certainly appreciate your sending me the source of your Franklin quotation. It was necessary for me to locate the original source, which I finally found in a letter written in April, 1779, and in the course of it I found other related material. It will all be used in an article on Franklin to be published in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. Thus, I thank you for bringing it to my attention.

As to your diagnosis of the leaf on the \$5 note that it is a tobacco leaf, I presume that is an opinion of yours rather than that of a botanist. I had a botanist identify it as betony, when I wrote on the subject. If I am in error, I would like to correct it in a revision of EARLY PAPER MONEY OF AMERICA (if that ever happens).

Keep up your writing and research and thanks, so much, for your helpfulness.

Sincerely yours,

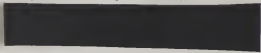
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 11, 1977

Mr. Donald C. O'Brien  


Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I have on approval a 6 Cent 3 Mills Hartford and New Haven Turnpike cardboard ticket issued in 1799-1800 and engraved by Amos Doolittle. It is an usual item from Connecticut. If you wish it, please send me a check payable to L. H. Finn for \$200.00. A photocopy is enclosed.

I enjoyed talking to you and perhaps we can help each other in our collections.

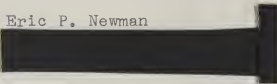
Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Donald C. O'Brien  
2368 Old Salem Road  
Pontiac, Michigan 48057  
February 13, 1977

Eric P. Newman



Dear Mr. Newman;

Thank you so much for the xerox copy of the Reed engraving. I was aware of this work, but have never seen it.

Now I am to the point in my research where I hope to date his bank-notes. This may turn out to be an impossible job if I cannot determine when these banks were incorporated. Do you know of a directory that would give me this information?

Your book was of particular interest. Unfortunately for me, it does not include the first part of the 19th century which is vital to my pursuit of Reed.

Any information that you can supply me would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



List from George  
sent 2/21/77

Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman;

Thank you for your prompt note and enclosed photocopy of the Doolittle ticket. It is very tempting; however, I think I will pass it up as I am trying to restrict myself currently to works by Abner Reed. I will give the information to a colleague who also collects early Americana.

As I told you during our telephone conversation, I have been working for several months on a biography and catalogue of Reed. My research has taken me to the Connecticut Historical Society, Yale University Library, and the American Antiquarian Society. I have become convinced that Reed had a tremendous impact of the development of engraving in this country. Although his work does not measure up artistically to some of his contemporaries, he was responsible for training men who became eminent in the field including Vistus Balch, Fred Bissell, John Cheney, Alfred Daggert, Louis Fairchild, William Mason, Oliver Pelton, William Phelps, Ebenezer F. Reed, Samuel Stiles and Asaph Willard.

Stiles became Reed's son-in-law and they formed a partnership in 1821. Their first venture was a shop in Utica, New York that Stiles operated himself. It appears that they intended to cash in on the flood of people moving west with the opening of the Erie Canal.

So far, I have found references to the following banks for which Reed ( or Reed and Stiles) engraved plates:

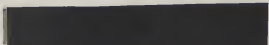
Hartford Bank (1792)  
Massachusetts Bank (181-)  
Montreal Bank (1st Issue, Oct. 1817-Jan. 1818 and 3rd Issue 1821)  
Utica Bank (After 1824)  
Jefferson County Bank, Watertown, N.Y. (After 1824)  
Bank of Sandusky, Ohio (No Date)

If you can add to this list at all, it would be deeply appreciated. I would also be interested in purchasing any notes by Reed if you have any that you would like to sell.

I located a copy of you book. Even though there are no references to Reed, the book should enhance my knowledge of the field. Thank you again for the information.

Sincerely,





December 16, 1985

Dear Fellow Member:

I am a new member of ISASC. My major interest is counterfeit coin detectors of U.S. origin. If you have any for sale, please let me know type, condition, and price.

Happy Holidays,



William C. O'Connor

WCO'C:hmg







**RARE COIN COMPANY OF AMERICA, Inc.**

*Professional Numismatic Brokers and Appraisers*

31 NORTH CLARK STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

ALL PHONES (312) 346-3443

CABLE "RARCOA"

February 8th, 1971

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
P. O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

I've tried Melvin Field and Max Schwartz on these 2 Washington items we have without a satisfactory answer, so I am trying you as a last resort.

The pictured items is the 'early' dark bronze and I cannot find any reference to it anywhere. Max says he has the piece and, because Baker missed very little, Max believes it may be an 1891 piece. What do you think?

The other piece is pewter or tin, 30 MM, head right, George Washington around. Reverse has First in Peace, First in War etc. in center, with dates of birth and death around edge.

Inasmuch as I can find no reference to these items anywhere, I hope you will be able to be of assistance.

Cordially

*Ben Odesser*  
Ben Odesser

BO:mh



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 22, 1971

Mr. Ben Odesser  
Rarcoa  
31 North Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Ben:

Washington's birthday is an excellent day to respond to your letter of February 8, 1971.

I have checked the inventory of the collection of Virgil Brand but he had so many Washington pieces that I easily could have missed the Yorktown Cannon. Please send me the exact size of that piece as the Brand inventory classifies them by size.

I do not find your pewter piece, either, on a preliminary inspection.

The only other thing to do is to comb through the sale catalogues but this may not be worth while since you already know the scarcity of the item.

Have you checked The Numismatist to see what Washington medals were put out during the 100th anniversary of his inauguration. There just might be an article.

We look forward to trying to help you at any time with your numismatic problems.

Best regards to all your gang.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

72  
August 30, 1977

Mrs. Marie O'Donnell  
Golden Wheel Antiques  
School Hill, Merstham, Surrey  
Merstham 2827  
England

Dear Mrs. O'Donnell:

Thank you for your kindness in sending the pictures of the Pub Money Changer. It looks most interesting and I hope the mechanism for dropping in the half sovereign works or can be made to work.

I am concerned that the glass will break if it is shipped by sea. Would you, therefore, wrap it for protection or put it in a box with stuffing and deliver to a friend of mine in London. He will arrange to have it carried to America. He will probably be able to pick it up at Porto Bello Road if you arrange it. His name is YASHA BERESINER (Home Telephone [REDACTED], Box 97, London NW4 2LD. Let me know after it is delivered to him.

I particularly want collapsible guinea and sovereign scales, old coin scales with coin weights, and money tills or changers. Write me whenever you get something and you will have an immediate answer.

I am glad to be a new customer.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

chuck o'donnell  
p. o. drawer a  
williamstown, new jersey 08094  
paper money enthusiast

phone (609) 629-5160

DATE 6/14/77

SUBJECT

TO

Eric P. Newman

Dear Eric - Am delighted when I looked I found 2nd, 4th and 5th -  
> which I'm sending under separate cover with compliments Harry Forman  
and myself -

collectingly yours

chuck

Answered  
6/21/77

☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ NO REPLY NECESSARY

SIGNED

11 April 1975

Dear Mr. Newman:

First, many thanks for the pleasurable hours I have enjoyed in reading your scholarly work "The Early Paper Money of America."

I am now getting ready for the 1976 Bicentennial (as an American in Ireland) and I'm interested in securing additional specimens of Continental Currency for an exposition here at Castle Maltix (where we have a museum) and at the American Embassy in Dublin. Could you please give



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Vinum Ami-  
gdalinum.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 28, 1975

Mr. Sean O'Driscoll  
Castle Matrix, Rathkeale,  
County Limerick  
Ireland (Erie)

Dear Mr. O'Driscoll:

Your letter of 11 April 1975 just reached me and I appreciate your kind words about my writing.

We would be glad to lend your museum and the Embassy some Continental Currency if you give us an indication as to what you have already. By Continental Currency I am assuming you are excluding notes of the individual colonies or states from the Revolutionary period. We do not sell items, but could put you in touch with dealers who are asking nice prices today for that material.

Under separate cover a copy of the Nature Printing publication is forwarded. There is no charge for this, but if you wish to make a modest donation to this organization you are free to do so.

Slides covering Early American numismatics can be reproduced for you at cost from slides we already have. You would have to state exactly what coins or paper money you wish, but we do not have other slides than the numismatic field.

You may join the American Numismatic Society by applying to them and please indicate I will sponsor you. You have to have good character and pay your dues for one year - that is all. (American Numismatic Society, Broadway between 155th and 156th, New York, New York 10032 USA).

Joining this Eric P. Newman Numismatic Society means a willingness to do numismatic work for us.

My wife and I would be delighted to visit Castle Matrix at some future time. When my wife was an antique buyer for an American department store she tried to buy the house contents of an Irish Castle and visited Ireland several times. She is involved in selling gifts and antiques now and is familiar with the Kilkenny Workshops.

What do you do at the Art Center?

I hope all of your inquiries have been reasonably answered and thank you for such an enthusiastic and interesting letter.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

5 December 1979

Dear Mr. Newman:

Please excuse my months of quiet. I have, by no means, lost my enthusiasm over the study of Continental Currency. However, when our scholarly Ambassador Moore resigned after the loss of his wife, enthusiasm in the US Embassy to Ireland disappeared. So the planned Bicentennial for 1979 (1779) [Exposition] was cancelled.

Nevertheless, I personally gained by



Alsum.

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Chatay.

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pauert.

Vinū ace-  
rofum.

Vinum de da-  
Aylis.

Vinum Ami-  
dalinum.

*Alexander & Green*

*120 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10005*

DDONALD M. DUNN  
ANDREW OLIVER  
ALFRED OGDEN  
CLYDE W. SORRELL  
CHRISTIAN H. OENGHOF  
EUGENE Z. DUBOSE  
EDWARD E. RIGNEY  
J. KENNETH CAMPBELL  
JAMES R. COGAN  
WILLIAM W. CRAWFORD  
DDONALD VAIL

EDWARD W. BOURNE  
LASATER TERRELL  
CLIFTON R. WILLIAMSON  
COUNSEL

TELEPHONE (212) RE 2-4290  
CABLES: "MACDDK, NEWYORK"

June 26, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dear Mr. Newman:

Your book on continental currencies has re-kindled my interest in acquiring a set of Connecticut notes, which I have been assembling for the past two or three years. The thought occurred to me that you might have some duplicates that you would be willing to sell.

I would be most grateful to you if you could drop me a note advising me whether you have any duplicates or to what source you feel I could turn to fill out my collection.

Very truly yours,

*Asfred Ryden*

AOg:ER



June 28, 1968

Mr. Alfred Ogden  
Alexander & Green  
120 Broadway  
New York, N. Y. 10005

Dear Mr. Ogden:

I am very pleased that my recent book on  
early paper money of America has been stimulation  
to you.

I do have a substantial number of duplicates  
but do not sell any items in order to avoid commer-  
ciality. If you have not already contacted Richard  
Picker, P. O. Box 123, Alburtson, New York 11507,  
I suggest you do so as he is a specialist in these  
matters.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN/cs

cc Mr. Richard Picker

August 28, 1964

Mr. Jack W. Ogilvie  
Hollywood, California

Dear Jack:

It was a pleasure to see you at the convention. The Zerbe award is one which you sincerely deserve and my heartiest congratulations for having received it.

Cordially,

Eric P. Newman

EPN/atb

# THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

P O BOX 2146, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, 73069

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11

FRANKLIN MAKING MONEY MORE PLENTIFUL is quite all right with us. Jake got back from his trip to Israel; we had a get-together and made it allofficial.

We will keep you informed from time to time regarding progress and any news of interest about OKNA.



John W. Dunn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri*

March 5, 1968

Old Coin Shop  
2425 El Cajon Blvd.  
San Diego, California 92104

Gentlemen:

We would like to buy about 40 Ishi bu and  
wonder if you have a quantity of them on hand.  
If you do not, could you let me know anyone in  
Japan who has this item for sale in quantity.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

COINS BOUGHT AND SOLD  
PHONE 298-8211  
A.N.A. 48321

# Old Coin Shop

2425 El Cajon Boulevard  
San Diego, California 92104

Mr. Eric. P. Newman  
NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Mo.

March 8, 1968

Dear sir:

Your letter of inquirey has been received re Japanese Ichibu Gin coins. These I assume you have in mind are of the rectangular silver old Japanese coins as listed in Craig "Coins of the World ", page 696, item number 16.

I retail these coins at \$3.95 each and can supply you with what I have left in stock at \$3.00 or \$45.00 for 15 pieces.

If you can use these, please advise at your nearest convenience. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

  
H. White

HW /ms

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 12, 1968

Mr. W. White  
Old Coin Shop  
2425 El Cajon Boulevard  
San Diego, California 92104

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for quoting me on the Ichibu Gin  
coins.

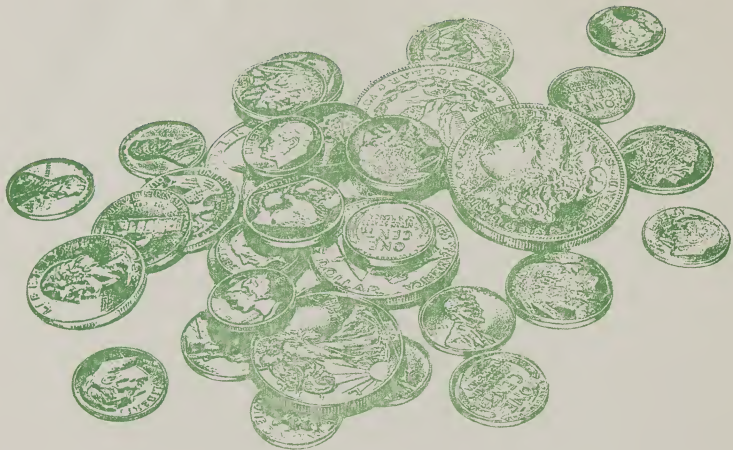
I paid 50¢ each for most of those I have  
and \$1 for the balance. I therefore feel that  
unless you can order me about forty from Japan, at  
\$1.50 each maximum, it would not be advisable for  
me to buy those you have in stock.

Thank you for your prompt answer.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb



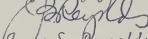
Sept 3rd, 1959

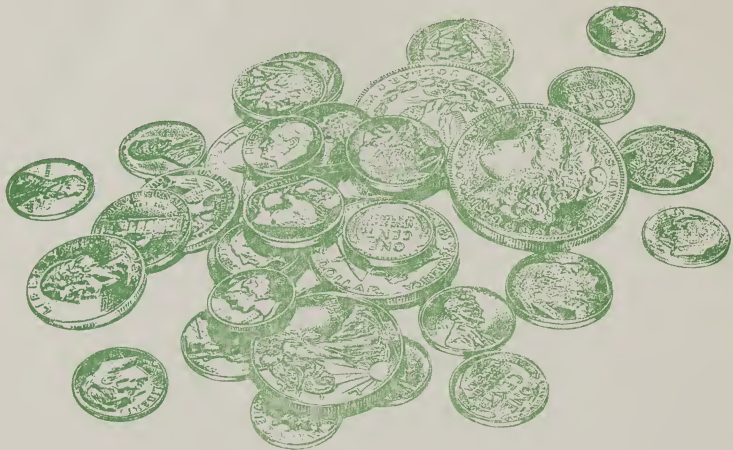
Eric P. Neuman  
400 Washington Ave.,  
St Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr Neuman:

This is to advise you that we are holding one 1919  
20 Peso Mexican Gold coin in XF condition for you  
at \$23.00. Please advise. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
James S. Reynolds  
Old Pueblo Stamp & Coin Shop  
307 East Congress St.,  
Tucson, Arizona



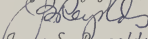
Sept 3rd, 1959

Eric P. Neuman  
400 Washington Ave.,  
St Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr Neuman:

This is to advise you that we are holding one 1919  
20 Peso Mexican Gold coin in XF condition for you  
at \$23.00. Please advise. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
James S. Reynolds  
Old Pueblo Stamp & Coin Shop  
307 East Congress St.,  
Tucson, Arizona



September 9, 1959

Mr. James S. Reynolds  
Old Pueblo Stamp & Coin Shop  
307 E. Congress St.  
Tucson, Arizona

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I am embarrassed to tell you that the party who wanted the 20 Peso Mexican Gold piece has changed her mind. This is a woman's prerogative. I was just doing her a favor by offering to get it for her. If she changes her mind again I will forward a check.

Thank you for your reply and congratulations on your fantastic stationery.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

SUNDAY PICTURES

April 8, 1964

Mr. Eric P. Newman and  
The Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil  
Clayton, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

I wish to thank you and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society for the expert help I received in preparing an article for the Sunday PICTURES Magazine of the Post-Dispatch on the subject of American silver dollars.

By providing the photographs of the various types of silver dollars and supplying the coins for a color photograph, you also enabled the newspaper to assemble interesting illustrations to accompany the article.

I personally appreciate your further efforts in checking the accuracy of the story material and for offering pertinent suggestions for changes.

It was a privilege to work with you.

Sincerely,



Clarence E. Olson  
Sunday PICTURES

Mr. Newman.....

Would you be so kind as to check the enclosed underlines for accuracy. They are all at their maximum length or slightly over, so some information had to be left out or included in telegraphic form.

Your Populust friend,

Clarence Olson

p.s Write anything you want on the carbon copies and have the boy return them to me....

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 29, 1968

Mrs. Edna M. Olson  
125 N. 5th Street  
St. Charles, Missouri

Dear Mrs. Olson:

There is enclosed herewith a Xerox of the money issued in St. Charles in 1821. This is what is called "loan office certificate".

I am also enclosing photocopies of the history of this certificate taken from "A Historical Study" by John Cable.

I think you can make an article out of it.

If you want to read the case in the Supreme Court of the United States in which this money was declared illegal, it is entitled Craig vs. The State of Missouri. Any Law Library would have it.

I am also enclosing a Xerox copy of the money issued in 1819 by Shade & Ashe. According to a memorandum I have you determined that these were furniture dealers and that they made coffins.

As soon as you have the pictures taken of the pie shaped item, let me know and I will endeavor to give you some background material.

We hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/etb

Nov. 19 1968

Edna McElhiney Olson  
125 North Fifth Street  
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed is the article you help me write with your knowledge on money. I am trying to work up a story on the Two Bits piece you saw at our museum. Should the date be about 1832 I find a tax receipt on a plank road toll - dated 1832 where the covered wagon driver paid " 2 bits " Any ideas for a story.

This story enclosed is having off results. A man was here in an old book at a book fair he found a paper Note for \$8.00 Next he will have a picture made for you he hopes to sell it to you. when he brings the picture I will send it to you. so at least you can tell the old man what it is worth or should bring. It is smaller than a dollar bill of today. made of about the same type of paper

Another woman came with a \$ 1,000 Confederate paper money. dated 1862 <sup>what</sup> kind of a book can I buy to have it here for folks to see and see what they have in the money line. I have in my library  
1/ A Guide Book of United States Coins. ( 14 Edition ) by R.S. Yeoman  
2/ Handbook of United States Coins with premium List ( 18 Edition ) by R.S. Yeoman

Any suggestion of what to buy that is not so expensive-

I wrote a story that pleased a man , he gave me a \$20 . gold piece- U.S.A. several pieces of Mexican Gold pieces that were in my fathers purse when he died, well your getting me started on money stories is ringing a bell even to a banker that was here today. I gave him your address-

Thank you for your kindness,

Cordially, Edna McElhiney Olson

*Edna McElhiney Olson*

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 22, 1968

Mrs. Edna McElhiney Olson  
125 North Fifth Street  
St. Charles, Missouri 63301

Dear Mrs. Olson:

You were very nice to send your write-up in the St. Charles newspaper.

Your note for \$8, which someone found in a book, is apparently from the 1775-80 period and if you send it to me I will give you such details as you wish concerning it.

The \$1,000 Confederate paper money item is probably a modern reproduction.

There is no book which can help you on these matters and the subject is just too extensive.

I am delighted your stories have succeeded so well. I presume this is the first of your money articles.

As to the Peuch Rien & Company 2-bit piece which I saw at your museum, it is, as you know, a quarter section of a Mexican piece of 8 reales. The New Orleans firm which cut and counterstamped these pieces did so to create change apparently in the 1815-1835 period. Usually these coins were cut up so that the person cutting them up could make a slight profit by shaving off some of the sides. These cut pieces circulated very extensively in the West Indies but the expressions "bit, 2-bits, 4-bits and 6-bits" spread in use throughout the United States.

If we can be of further help, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 15, 1971

Mr. John Oleson  
Fogg Art Museum  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Mr. Oleson:

Thank you, very much, for the copies of the pages of W. B. Lamb's coin inventory relating to American pieces. The pieces therein described are reasonably common and therefore I do not need any further data on them.

I am pursuing records of early collections in the United States and thought I might find some American rarities listed in Harvard's holdings.

With much appreciation,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPA  
atb



# University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Department of Communication

September 29, 1989

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mr. Roy Goodman of the American Philosophical Society, because he mentioned that you might know the answer to a couple of enduring questions.

I am engaged in research for a book-length manuscript entitled Benjamin Franklin's Vision of America: Images of the Emerging Nation, 1754-1784. The manuscript focuses on the images which Franklin designed to represent those British colonies in America that became the United States. Among these was the image of the colonies as thirteen interlinked rings on the Continental Currency for 1776.

During my research on this image, I have read and profited from six of your essays about the continental currency (and the fugio cent), as well as your book on the subject. In addition, I have already consulted a helpful article by David McBride. Still, there are two lingering questions of importance for my own work on the subject:

1. What are the pictorial antecedents of the design representing the United States as interlinked rings in "WE ARE ONE," which was distributed on the Continental currency authorized on February 17, 1776? Although David P. McBride has mentioned some possible sources in European history, none of those designs had been used to suggest unity among distinct governments, except perhaps for the rings designating the Olympic games. I am wondering whether an iconographic tradition connects the image on the currency with the images on those wampum belts which had served as treaties between the Iroquois Confederacy and the various colonial governments, because the written texts of the treaties often alluded to "brightening the chain" linking the distinct governments. Further, Franklin had published several of the treaties in which such language had been used by the Native Americans.

2. What was the period of time between the Congressional legislation authorizing the Continental currency on February 17, 1776, and the actual circulation of the currency throughout the United States? Although you and David P. McBride have written extensively about the origin and the design of the currency, none

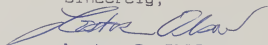


of the articles mention the length of time required to produce and circulate it. I have scanned two newspapers--one American, the other British--for a period of one year after the emission of February 17, 1776 in search of evidence that the currency had come into circulation. None of the articles I located were sufficiently specific to establish a date by which the currency had come into general circulation.

I should be happy to acknowledge any assistance that you care to offer in response to these two questions. I would welcome hunches as well as conclusive evidence.

Thank you for your time. I will look forward to hearing from you about your response to these questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lester Olson", written in a cursive style.

Lester C. OLSON

Assistant Professor

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 9, 1989

Mr. Lester C. Olson  
Department of Communication  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am glad to try to help you and wish you luck with your manuscript.

I know of no antecedent for the 13 links. I don't even know how Franklin divided a circle into thirteen equal segments so that he could use a compass to make his links. It must have been measurement and calculation or trial and error to find his center points. Since the design is first found in Franklin's doodling, does that create a better chance of his being the originator?

As to your second query, I can be more helpful. In **Early Paper Money of America** (p.38) I mention that the 2/17/76 fractional issue was still being signed and issued through the fall of 1777. The fractional issue required 100,000 sheets (24 bills to a sheet) (see page 404) printed separately on two sides. The first side had to dry before the second was printed. Then each bill had to be signed and numbered with a quill pen by officially appointed friends of liberty. Then cutting up was next and counting. It was a steady tedious job. I estimate that in about 30 days an authorized issue was produced and its issue begun but it would continue thereafter to completion, depending on the number to be issued and the amount needed for disbursement. My estimate has specific support from a prior issue.

On page 34 I mention that the May 1775 session issue was originally authorized June 22-23, 1775 and then on July 25, 1775 the Congress approved other detail. It went into circulation in August, 1775. Preparation of design cuts and special paper production were probably begun after the June authorization date. This was the first issue and things were better organized by the February 1776 issue. That is why I feel about one month was the required time for the first part of an issue to be produced, particularly when new designs were used as in the case of the fractional issue. The integral denominations of the same date needed no new cuts.

In 1778-1779 two separate issues were being printed and emitted at the same time and even their congressional authorizations overlap.

Check the Journals of the Continental Congress publication if you want to see if there are any other comments on the fractional issue in the relevant period. It has a reasonably good index.

The third edition of Early Paper Money of America is scheduled for publication in January 1990. It has been fun to revise and add to the 1976 book.

You should see my exhibit on Franklin in our money museum in St. Louis. He is my hero too and that is why I have written so much about his work.

I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", written over a light purple rectangular background.

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



# University of Pittsburgh

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
Department of Communication

October 19, 1989

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for making time in your schedule to provide some background information about the production of the currency for 1776 (containing the design for the 13 interlinked rings). I appreciate your willingness to help me with these research problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lester Olson", written over a horizontal line.

Lester C. OLSON  
Assistant Professor

June 18, 1969

Mr. Lloyd A. Olson, Assistant Vice-President  
Commerce Trust Company  
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Olson:

You were the most recent person to call on our company in connection with our long standing business relationship and we were wondering if you could do a little technical favor for a couple of our officers. They seem to be in need of four \$1 notes, in new condition, (unfolded) of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, series 1963B, signed by Secretary Barr.

Would it be possible for you to obtain these bills for us? We enclose a check for \$4.00 to cover.

Thank you, very much, for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb



Commerce Trust Company P. O. BOX 248, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64141  
PHONE 816 VI 2-7500

June 19, 1969

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
P. O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

In accordance with your request, I am enclosing four  
one dollar Federal Reserve notes issued by the Kansas  
City "Fed" and signed by Joseph W. Barr.

Glad to be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Lloyd A. Olson  
Assistant Vice President

LAO:lmb

Enc.

June 20, 1969

Dear Mr. Olson,

Thank you for the Federal  
Reserve notes.

It is appreciated.

*From the desk of*  
ERIC P. NEWMAN